

(1983). Report on Water Sampling Coyote Hills, Fullerton, Epidemiological Studies Section, Sanitary Engineering Section, and Hazardous Materials Laboratory, California Department of Health Services.

(BACKGROUND)

About three to four years ago, the subdivision known as “Coyote Hills” was built in Fullerton, Orange County. The subdivision is close to the McColl Waste Disposal Site, in an area just north of Rosecrans Avenue. Many residents have complained of the taste and odor of their water. In response to these complaints, the Department of Health Services (DOHS) undertook a sampling and analysis of the water supply in an attempt to determine the chemical source of the complaints and to assess whether use of the water present any health risk.

The Epidemiological Studies Section (ESS) of the DOHS identified twelve homeowners who complained of odoriferous and bad tasting water and who agreed to have their water tested by DOHS. Duplicate samples were collected from each home on July 19, 1983 by Staff of the Sanitary Engineering Division, following procedures that are spelled out in a Protocol developed for this purpose. Homeowners were asked not to use water for at least two hours before the sample was drawn, and enough (approximately one liter) water was drained before collecting the sample to ensure that it came from the service line. For comparison, duplicate samples were taken from the distribution main water line outside the Coyote Hills area that supplies water to the subdivision. Quality control was assured by standard procedures such as the use of site blanks, spike samples, and blind duplicate sampled. A site blank is a sample bottle with distilled water which is opened and closed at the time of sampling in order to detect accidental contamination during the sampling process. A spike sample has a known concentration of a chemical and is used to be sure that the laboratory is able to accurately detect a substance if it is present. A blind duplicate sample is taken from the same location as a regular sample but is labeled in the field with a fictitious identifier in order to verify the reliability of the laboratory. Analyses for volatile organic chemicals and extractable organic chemicals were conducted pursuant to EPA methods 624 and 625, and the odor analysis was conducted in accordance with standard methods described in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Waste Water, 15th Edition, 1980.